

REMARKS

Claims 19-27 are pending in the present Application. Claims 19-25 have been allowed, leaving Claims 26-27 for further consideration by the Examiner.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Double Patenting

Claims 26 and 27 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1 and 4-7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,727,871.

Applicants have submitted with this response a terminal disclaimer over U.S. Patent No. 6,727,871. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the double patenting rejection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 26 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,492,778 to Segewa. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The rejection is improper under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). This application is a continuation application of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/679,102 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,727,871), which has a filing date of October 4, 2000 and claims priority to Japan HEI. 11-283174 having a priority date of October 4, 1999.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection and allow the entire case.

It is believed that the foregoing remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 23, 2005